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LETTER DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a section of the final report issued by the sixtieth session of the Ministerial Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Arabian Gulf, held in Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 7 and 8 September 1996 under the chairmanship of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman. This section concerns the question of the occupation by Iran of the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, which form an inalienable part of the sovereign territory of the United Arab Emirates.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Final Report issued by the sixtieth session of the Ministerial Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Arabian Gulf, held in Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 7 and 8 September 1996

Relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the question of the occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates:

The Ministerial Council reviewed developments in relations between the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the question of its occupation of the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, which belong to the United Arab Emirates. It was noted that the Iranian Government continues to take measures designed to consolidate its occupation of the three islands, carrying to extremes the policy of using force to impose the status quo. The most recent of these measures was the opening by the Iranian Government on 31 August 1996 of a fish-processing factory and warehouse on the island of Abu Musa. This represents a determination to proceed with their unjustified and provocative actions. The Council reiterated its deep regret at the continuing failure of the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond to the repeated sincere and serious invitations to seek a solution to this issue by peaceful means offered by the United Arab Emirates, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Damascus Declaration countries, the Council of the League of Arab States and the Arab Summit Conference. The Ministerial Council expressed its disapproval of the successive measures taken in the islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and its continuing concern as to the results of the Iranian Government's extremism in pursuing the policy of using force to impose the status quo in the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, in violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates and in encroachment of the latter's rights in these islands. Peace and security in the region are threatened thereby, and the principles and precepts of international law and the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference completely disregarded, together with the principles of good-neighbourliness and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States of the region.

The Council reaffirmed the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and its absolute support for all the peaceful measures being taken to recover its sovereignty over these islands. The Council also expressed its satisfaction with the decision taken by the United Nations Security Council that the question of the islands should remain one of its agenda items. The Council repeated its call to the Islamic Republic of Iran to end its occupation of the islands, suspend its policy of using force to impose the status quo, desist from taking any unilateral measures, remove any installations and annul any unilateral decisions already imposed on the three islands and employ peaceful means to resolve the conflict over them in accordance with the principles and rules of international law, which would include accepting that the matter could be dealt with by the International Court of Justice.